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The President's Daily Brief

June 7, 1974

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~~*Top Secret*~~ 25X1



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

June 7, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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[redacted] Egyptian-
Israel [redacted]
[redacted] (Page 1)

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King Husayn will use the President's visit to Amman to demonstrate continuing US support for Jordan.

[redacted] (Page 2)

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Soviets [redacted]
(Page 3)

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[redacted]

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About one third fewer Soviet Jews received exit visas for Israel last month than in May 1973.
(Page 5)

[redacted]

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In Iraq, the breach between the civilian and military wings of the ruling Baath Party appears to be widening. (Page 7)

The South Vietnamese government will meet Communist demands in hopes that talks will resume in Paris and in Saigon, [redacted]

[redacted] (Page 8)

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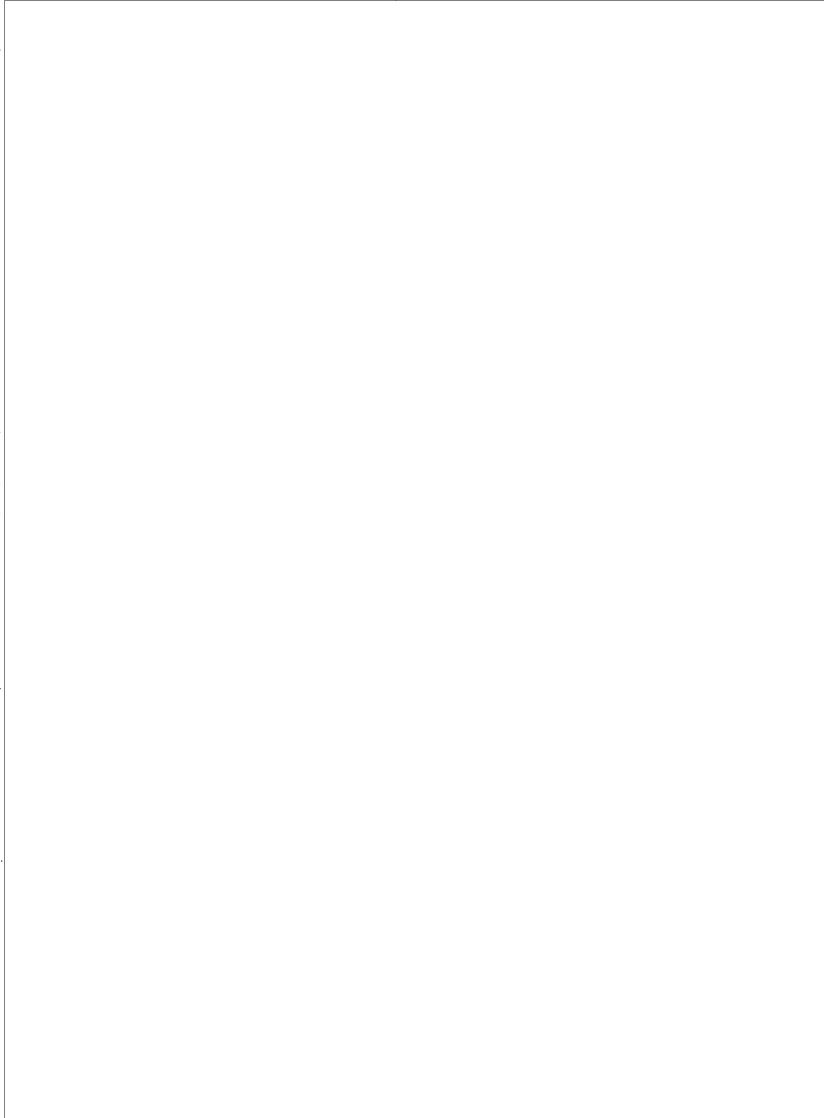
Notes on Burma and on the USSR appear on Page 9.

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EGYPT-ISRAEL

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JORDAN

King Husayn will use the President's visit to Amman to demonstrate continuing US support for Jordan.

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The Jordanians are uneasy about their relationship with the US as a result of growing US attention to Egypt. They are also concerned that they may be by-passed in another round of Israeli negotiations with Egypt and Syria or in a reconvening of the Geneva conference, where Jordan's role might be pre-empted by the Palestine Liberation Organization.

If Jordanian-Israeli negotiations have not been held before the Geneva peace talks reconvene, the Jordanians have said they will not attend unless Jordanian-Israeli disengagement is the first item on the agenda. Ambassador Pickering in Amman believes that King Husayn is willing to be flexible about the timing of negotiations as long as the interval between Syrian-Israeli disengagement and the start of talks between Israel and Jordan is not delayed more than a few months. A longer delay could strengthen the arguments of those army leaders and East Bank tribal chiefs who regard the West Bank as more trouble than it is worth, and Husayn needs their support. Postponement could also reduce the incentive for the fedayeen to take part in negotiations. Although Husayn is opposed to the PLO's playing a role at this point, over the long term he wants the fedayeen to share responsibility for whatever final settlement is concluded.

Husayn believes that he must make some respectable gains during negotiations to maintain his credibility among his fellow Arabs. He is unlikely to be receptive, therefore, to the Israeli proposal that would allow Jordan to reassert its administrative control over most of the West Bank while Israel's military forces continue to occupy the area, even if this were described as a first step. Husayn has said publicly that he wants the Israelis to pull back an unspecified distance from the west bank of the Jordan River.

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USSR

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USSR-CHINA

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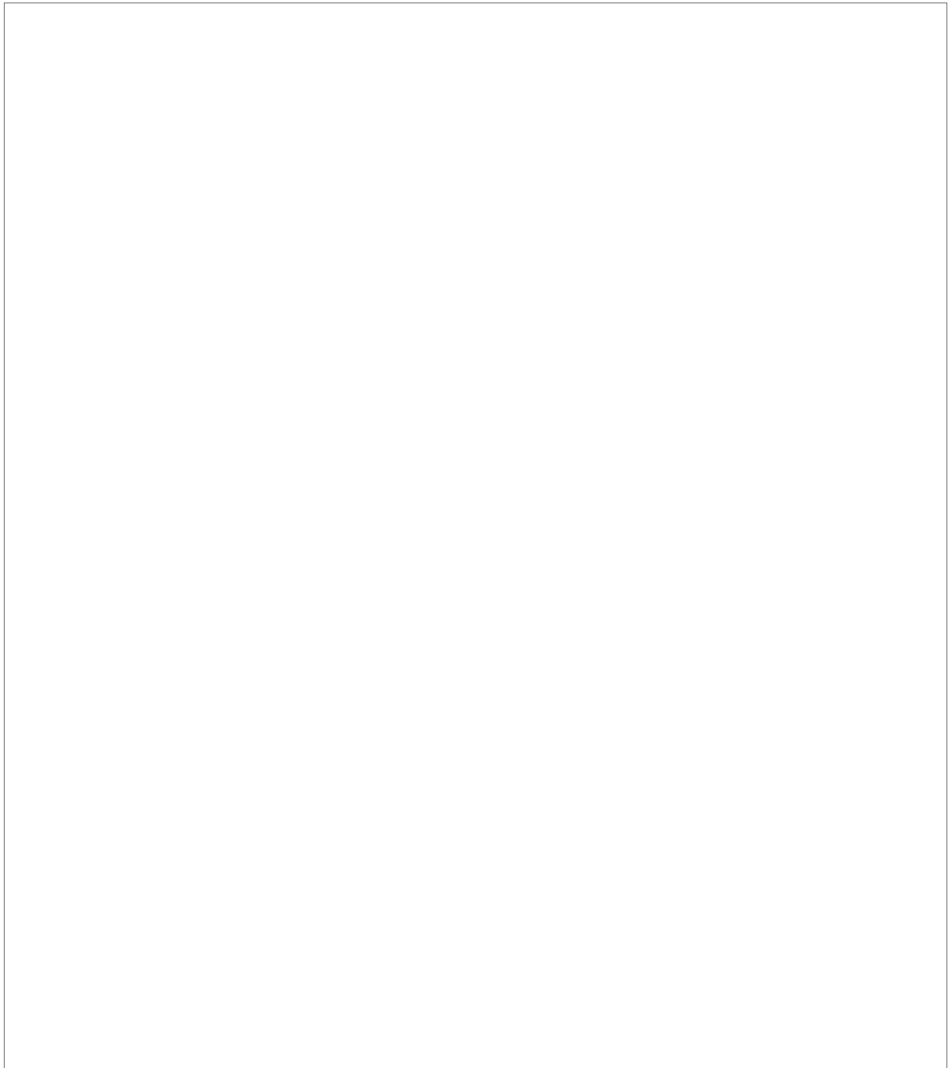
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USSR

About one third fewer Soviet Jews received exit visas for Israel last month than in May 1973. Departures for the first five months of this year are 27 percent lower than for the same period in 1973.

There is no evidence that the refusal of visas has increased markedly, but the Soviets apparently have discouraged applications through tightened procedures, high fees, and a heightened media campaign that stresses hardships emigrants face in Israel. The Dutch consul in Moscow, who processes Israel-bound emigrants, believes some 150,000 Soviet Jews are still considering filing application to leave the USSR for Israel.

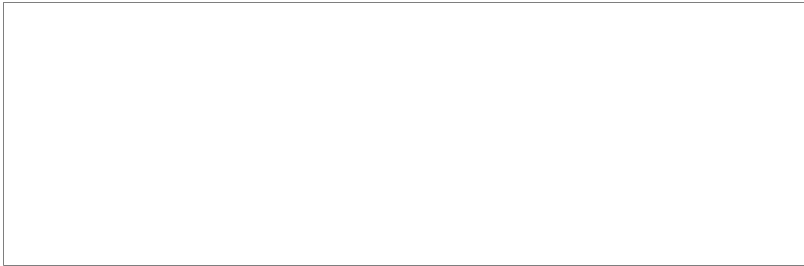
By slowing the emigration rate, the Soviets probably intend to express displeasure with US failure to grant the USSR most-favored-nation status. They could make a dramatic gesture by allowing a large number of Jews to leave at the time of the summit meeting, even though this would undercut the Soviet line that the drop in departures results from declining interest in emigration.



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CHINA



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IRAQ

As the campaign against the Kurds drags on inconclusively, the breach between the civilian and military wings of the ruling Baath Party appears to be widening.

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SOUTH VIETNAM

South Vietnam's chief delegate to the Joint Military Commission announced today that his government will restore the diplomatic privileges and immunities of the Communist delegates in hopes of getting talks resumed in Paris and in Saigon.

The decision to restore the Communist delegation's privileges and freedom of movement--which the Communists have demanded as a condition for further participation in negotiations--was made [redacted] by President Thieu [redacted]

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[redacted] Thieu has been under pressure from his advisers to reopen the discussions as a means of encouraging favorable votes on aid bills for South Vietnam now before the US Congress.

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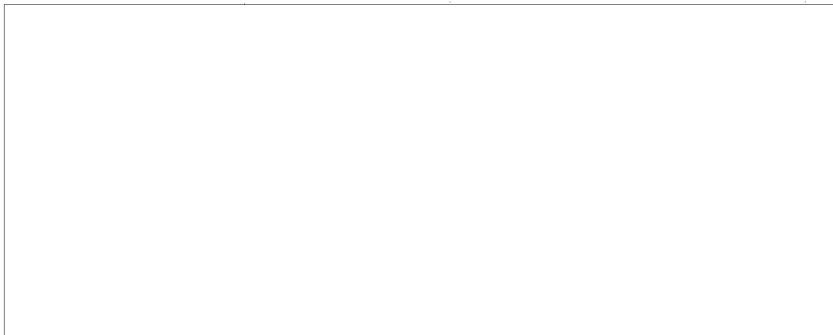
There is as yet no Communist reaction to the offer, and there is no guarantee that they will accept. If they do not, Saigon will be able to put the blame for the boycott on the Communists, and hopefully improve Saigon's image abroad--especially in the US.

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NOTES

Burma: Rangoon is close to a general strike as labor demands for larger rice rations and other economic benefits grow. Yesterday, army troops fired on demonstrating workers, killing 7 and wounding 17. President Ne Win is due to return to Burma from a good will trip in mid-June, and his subordinates are unlikely to attempt any long-range solutions before then.

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USSR: The Soviets are evidently sending more minesweepers to assist in clearing operations in the Strait of Gubal at the southern end of the Gulf of Suez. At least ten Soviet ships, including five minesweepers, left the Sea of Japan yesterday heading south, apparently en route to Egypt via the Indian Ocean. Three other minesweepers, which probably are also bound for Egypt, have passed through the English Channel and seem headed toward the Mediterranean and the Suez Canal.

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